

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 8, 2004. Claims 10-12, 17-19, 21, 32, 34, 37, 39, 41, and 42 are pending in this application. Claims 41 and 42 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 11 and 21, which are in independent form, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 10-12, 17-19, 21, 32, 34, 37, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,148,048 (Takemoto et al.) in view of Applicants' Prior Art Admission. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 11 and 21, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the proposed combination of the cited prior art at least for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 11 is that an imaging device having a first color picture cell array, which contains picture cells having a photo-electric converting element for converting incident light to electric signals arranged two-dimensionally, and a second color picture cell array, which contains picture cells having a photo-electric converting element for converting incident light to electric signals arranged two-dimensionally, placed in juxtaposition on a substrate. The first and second color picture cell arrays are each provided with a respective color filter of a single color and a focusing lens. The substrate is formed from a material having a first conductivity type and has a common well formed from a material having the opposite conductivity type to the substrate, and the common well having doped regions of the same conductivity as the

common well. The well contacts are provided on the doped regions of the common well, which the doped regions are provided for at least at a side situated between the first and second color picture cell arrays to each of the first and second color picture cell arrays. The number of sides of each color picture cell arrays, at which sides the well contacts were set, are the same as one another, and each of the well contacts are connected to each of the doped regions.

Among other important features of Claim 11 is that the well contacts are provided on the doped regions of the common well, the doped regions being provided for at least at a side situated between the first and second color picture cell arrays to each of the first and second color picture cell arrays. Figure 8 shows two sides situated between area color picture cell arrays that have been provided with the well contacts.¹

Takemoto et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a solid-state imaging device. Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Takemoto et al. and Applicants' Prior Art Admission that would teach or suggest the feature of well contacts being provided on the doped regions of the common well, which the doped regions are provided for at least at a side situated between the first and second color picture cell arrays to each of the first and second color picture cell arrays, and where the number of sides of each color picture cell arrays, at which sides the well contacts were set, are the same as one another, and each of the well contacts are connected to each of the doped regions, as recited in Claim 11.

¹(It is to be understood, of course, that the scope of Claim 11 is not limited to the details of this embodiment.)

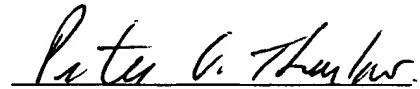
Independent Claim 21 includes features similar to Claim 11, and therefore is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 11.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter G. Thurlow
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 47,138

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 456430v1